

While the amateur radio service needs new people to enter the hobby, it doesn't need people who have no appreciation for tradition, service and the challenge and rewards of achievement, such as learning Morse code, even at 5 WPM.

CW remains a viable and needed mode. I would argue that most proponents of removing the code requirement have never tried handling a piece of formal NTS message traffic using HF phone. They would soon discover that this method is prone to interference, errors, inefficiency, and frustration. Morse code, on the other hand, in the hands of an experienced operator, is precise, efficient, and easy to correct errors in messages. It's all a matter of practice. If operators won't practice to learn a simple skill of CW at 5 WPM, tell me how will they take the time to learn traffic handling procedures, emergency procedures and other needed emergency operating skills? How will they contribute rather than hinder emergency operations?

Those stating that eliminating the code requirement will bring additional youth and a multitude of others into the amateur radio ranks had better think through what that very well might result in.

One need only listen to operating practices and rules violations occurring on the phone bands, and it will come immediately self-evident what is in store for amateur radio on an expanded basis.

Here's a philosophical question to consider for those advocating no-code; are you going to step forward and be actively involved in properly training all the newcomers you say will flock to amateur radio because of the elimination of the code? Are you going to become Official Observers and help keep the phone bands in order or are you simply advocating the removal of the code requirement from a self-serving standpoint?

If it's the latter, you will have contributed in making amateur radio indistinguishable from what takes place on 11 meters.

Our nation is at war with groups that have no qualms about destroying our very way of life. There is no substitute for being prepared to defend this great country against these groups in every way possible. That includes having EVERY means of communications available, that should one method fail, another is immediately available. The elimination of the 5-WPM Morse code requirement further reduces our ability to respond in a national emergency. Please, use common sense. Keep the code requirement as it already exists.